Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claim 19 without prejudice.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously amended) A fusion protein presenting epitopes of at least two autoantigens wherein said autoantigens are selected from the group consisting of: preproinsulin (PPINS), glutamic acid decarboxylase (GAD65) and islet cell antigen (IA2), wherein said epitopes are connected with a linker peptide, wherein said linker peptide is selected from the group consisting of KKKRPRKKK (SEQ ID NO:2) and KKKRSRKKK (SEQ ID NO:4), said fusion protein being able to bind to a solid phase.

2. (Original) The fusion protein according to claim 1 having epitopes of each of the autoantigens GAD65, IA2 and PPINS.

3. (Previously amended) The fusion protein according to claim 2 wherein
- the epitope of IA2 comprises the amino acids 771-979 of SEQ ID NO:5,
- the epitope of GAD65 comprises the amino acids 102-585 of SEQ ID NO:6, and
- the epitope of PPINS comprises all the amino acids 1-110 of SEQ ID NO:7.

4. (Canceled).

5. (Currently Amended) The fusion protein according to claim 1, wherein said linker peptide is provided with a member of an affinity binding pair ~~so as to enable~~ for facilitating the binding of said fusion protein to the solid phase.

6. (Original) The fusion protein according to claim 5 wherein the affinity binding pair is biotin - streptovidin.

7. (Previously amended) A cDNA encoding the fusion protein according to claim 1 wherein said cDNA comprises nucleotide sequences encoding epitopes of at least two autoantigens wherein said autoantigens are selected from the group consisting of: preproinsulin (PPINS), glutamic acid decarboxylase (GAD65) and islet cell antigen (IA2).

8. (Previously amended) A cDNA encoding the fusion protein according to claim 3 wherein said cDNA comprises the nucleotide sequences
a) nucleotides 1311 to 1755 of SEQ ID NO:8 encoding GAD65, aa 102-585,
b) nucleotides 2313 to 2937 of SEQ ID NO:9 encoding IA2, aa 771-979, and
c) nucleotides 2424 to 2610 and 3397 to 3539 of SEQ ID NO:10 encoding PPINS, aa 1-110, where said nucleotide sequence a), b) and c) can appear in any relative order.

9. (Previously amended) A vector comprising the cDNA according to claim 7.

10. (Original) An E. coli cell encompassing the cDNA according to claim 7.

11-16. (Canceled).

17. (Previously added) A vector comprising the cDNA according to claim 8.

18. (Previously Amended) A fusion protein presenting epitopes of at least two autoantigens selected from the group consisting of glutamic acid decarboxylase (GAD65), islet cell antigen (IA2), and preproinsulin, wherein said fusion protein comprises a label and a linker peptide wherein said

linker peptide is selected from the group consisting of KKKRPRKKK (SEQ ID NO:2) and KKKRSRKKK (SEQ ID NO:4).

19. Canceled.

20. (Previously added) The fusion protein of claim 18 wherein said label is a lanthanide.

21-22. (Canceled).

23. (Currently amended) The fusion protein of claim 1 wherein said linker peptide is labeled with a member of an affinity binding pair ~~which enables~~ for facilitating binding of said fusion protein to said solid phase.

24. (Previously added) The fusion protein of claim 23 wherein said affinity binding pair is biotin-streptavidin.

25-26. (Canceled).

27. (Currently amended) The fusion protein of claim 18 wherein said linker peptide is labeled with a member of an affinity binding pair ~~which enables~~ for facilitating binding of said fusion protein to said solid phase.

28. (Previously added) The fusion protein of claim 27 wherein said affinity binding pair is biotin-streptavidin.